

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 01530 021252Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /058 W

-----021255Z 020708 /43

O 021215Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3725

INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1530

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOPN, CSCE, PFOR, UR

SUBJECT: CONTINUATION OF SOVIET CHARGES AGAINST AP CORRESPONDENT

REF: (A) MOSCOW 1430, (B) MOSCOW 1198, (C) MOSCOW 1169,

(D) MOSCOW 1083

1. FEBRUARY 2 EDITION OF "LITERATURNAYA GAZETA" FIRED NEW SALVO IN CASE OF AP CORRESPONDENT GEORGE KRIMSKY (REFTELS). MENTIONING, IN SOMEWHAT ALTERED FORM, JANUARY 24 DEMARCHE BY MFA PRESS DEPARTMENT TO AP BUREAU CHIEF MASON AND P&C COUNSELOR, LITGAZ COVERS LATEST CHARGES OF CRIMINAL IRREGULARITIES IN KRIMSKY'S HANDLING OF SERIES D COUPONS AND THEN BOTH REHASHES AND EXPANDS ACCUSATIONS RAISED IN LAST SUMMER'S SERIES OF ARTICLES THAT KRIMSKY (AS WELL AS NEWSWEEK'S NOW-DEPARTED FRIENDLY AND NEW YORK TIMES BUREAU CHIEF WREN) ENGAGED IN ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES. UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF FULL TEXT OF FEBRUARY 2 ARTICLE BEING SENT SEPTTEL.

2. ENTITLED "UNDER THE BANNER' OF A NEWS AGENCY" ('POD FLAGOM INFORMATSIONNOGO AGENTSTVA), LATEST LITGAZ ATTACK NOTEWORTHY FOR SEVERAL REASONS IN ADDITION TO ITS OBVIOUS ESCALATION OF PRESSURE ON KRIMSKY. ARTILCE LEADS OFF BY SAYING LITGAZ
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 01530 021252Z

HAD BEEN PHONED ON JANUARY 31 BY "INVESTIGATIVE ORGANS" WHO SAID PAPER'S EDITORS "WILL SURELY BE INTERESTED TO KNOW" OF CURRENCY SPECULATION CHARGES AGAINST KRIMSKY. IN FOLLOWING DESCRIPTION OF CHARGES, LITGAZ TAKES CARE TO CITE CRIMINAL CODE PROVISIONS OF THREE-TO-EIGHT YEAR SENTENCE FOR CONVICTION OF SUCH COUNTS. PAPER ALSO RELATES JANUARY 24 DEMARCH "AS WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY THE

PRESS DEPARTMENT OF THE MFA". IN DOING SO, LITGAZ CITES AP BUREAU CHIEF MASON AND P&C COUNSELOR BENSON BY NAME, ALTHOUGH ROLE OF AMERICAN EMBASSY NOT MENTIONED THEREAFTER EXCEPT BY IMPLICATION WHEN PAPER STATES THAT "FOR INCOMPREHENSIBLE REASONS THE AMERICAN SIDE" DID NOT FOLLOW ADVISE OF DEMARCHE AND ORDER KRIMSKY HOME.

3. IN REHASHING EARLIER LITGAZ CHARGES AGAINST KRIMSKY (MAY-JULY,1976), PAPER RETRAVELS WELL-TRODDEN PATHS BUT SPECIFICALLY ACCUSES CORRESPONDENT OF OFFERING 1500 RUBLE PAYMENT FOR INFORMATION FROM ONE OF HIS "SOURCES" (QUOTATION MARKS COURTESY LITGAZ) AND REPRINTS PHOTOSTAT OF NOTE ALLEGEDLY IN KRIMSKY'S HANDWRITING GIVING HIS "SOURCE" ELABORATE INSTRUCTIONS FOR ESTABLISHING CONTACT. LITGAZ SARCASTICALLY ADDS: "DO YOU RECOGNIZE YOUR OWN HANDWRITING, MR. KRMSKY?"

4. ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY CITING HELSINKI ACCORDS ON "LEGITIMATE" JOURNALISTIC ACTIVITY AND SAYS KRIMSKY MISTAKEN IF HE THINKS THIS MEANS HE IS PROTECTED BY ACCORDS. ACCORDS, LITGAZ EDITORIALIZES, CONCERN, "AS IS WELL KNOWN, JOURNALISTS AND NOT THOSE WHO ONLY USE THIS TITLE TO CONCEAL THEMSELVES."

5. MASON AND KRIMSKY CAME TO EMBASSY MORNING OF FEBRUARY 2 TO DISCUSS LITGAZ ATTACK WITH P&C COUNSELOR. MASON PLANS SAME DAY TO RECOMMEND TO AP LEADERSHIP THAT AP IN GENERAL AND MOSCOW BUREAU IN PARTICULAR DEAL WITH ANTICIPATED QUERIES FROM OTHER U.S. AND WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: (A) SERIES D COUPON CHARGES TOUCH ON CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 01530 021252Z

PRACTICE WIDELY USED BY OTHER NEWS AGENCIES AND SOME FOREIGN EMBASSIES IN MOSCOW; ONCE COUPONS GIVEN TO LOCAL EMPLOYEES, IMPOSSIBLE TO CONTROL THEIR POSSIBLE FURTHER TRANSFER TO THIRD PARTIES; FYI AP HAS SOUGHT CLEAR-CUT WRITTEN STATEMENT ON USE OF SERIES D COUPONS AS PART OF SALARY OF LOCAL EMPLOYEES AND HAS SO FAR NOT RECEIVED ANY RESPONSE FROM DIPLOMATIC SERVICE AGENCY UPDK; (B) REHASHING OF KRIMSKY'S "ESPIONAGE ACTIVITY" RAISES NO NEW ISSUES; CHARGES WERE CATERGORICALLY REJECTED BY AP LAST SUMMER; (C) MASON PROMISED KHAZOV DURING JANUARY 24 DEMARCHE THAT HE WOULD MAKE FORMAL REPLY TO MFA PRESS DEPARTMENT; HE HAS SINCE TWICE REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH DEPARTMENT CHIEF SOFINSKIY BUT LATTER REPORTEDLY ILL; WHEN SOFINSKIY IS ABLE TO RECEIVE HIM, MASON WILL MAKE PROPER RESPONSE - UNTIL THEN MATTER IS BETWEEN AP AND MFA. LITGAZ ATTACK, COMING AS IT DOES FROM AN "UNOFFICIAL" PUBLICATION, DOES NOT AFFECT KRMISKY'S POSITION.

6. ACTION: EMBASSY RECOMMENDS DEPARTMENT SUMMON

KAMENEV FOR "CHAT" AND DEPLORE SUCH IRRESPONSIBLE
STORIES AS THAT APPEARING IN LITGAZ. OF FEB 2.
DEPARTMENT SHOULD EXPRESS HOPE THAT LITGAZ PIECE DOES NOT
REFLECT ANY INTENTION ON PART OF SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO HARASS
OR THREATEN KRIMSKY, SINCE SUCH WOULD BE TAKEN MOST SERIOUSLY
BY USG AND WOULD LEAD TO CONSEQUENCES OUTLINED IN
DEPARTMENT'S EARLIER SESSION WITH KAMENEV.
TOON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, HARASSMENT, JOURNALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW01530
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770037-0149
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770281/aaaactse.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e2d0cdcc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MOSCOW 1430, 77 MOSCOW 1198, 77 MOSCOW 1169, 77 MOSCOW 1083
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3431467
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONTINUATION OF SOVIET CHARGES AGAINST AP CORRESPONDENT
TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, UR, US, CSCE, (KRIMSKY, GEORGE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e2d0cdcc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009